



Australian Bureau of Statistics

6102.0 - Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2001

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INTRODUCTION

20.1.1 This survey provides detailed information on the career experience of employees, and has been conducted on an irregular basis since 1993. Data collected in the survey are used in the formulation and monitoring of policy relating to workplace flexibility, barriers to career development, and workers with family responsibilities.

20.1.2 This section describes only those aspects of the methodology that are unique to this survey, and hence should be used in conjunction with the overview part of this chapter, which outlines the survey methodology used in supplementary surveys.

SURVEY OUTPUT

20.1.3 Data are published in **Career Experience, Australia** (Cat. no. 6254.0). More detailed data are available on request.

20.1.4 The main populations of interest are employees (excluding those aged 15-20 who are still attending school), and employees with children under 12 years of age. Estimates are produced on an original basis (i.e. not seasonally adjusted) only and include:

Socio-demographic information Sex, age, marital status, relationship in household, family, geographic region, educational attainment, birthplace and year of arrival in Australia.

Employees Employment characteristics (industry, occupation, sector, full-time/part-time status, permanent/casual status); hours worked in reference week; usual weekly earnings; size of employees workplace; changes in jobs held with current employer over previous 12 months (promotions, transfers, changes in duties, level of responsibility, and locations of work); duration of employment and expected future duration of employment with current employer; types of training received/supported by current employer; age of youngest child; and whether had a break from work of six months or more.

Employees with children aged under 12 years Use of formal childcare; if not using formal childcare - reason why; if using formal childcare - type of childcare used, and number of employees in household.

Employees with children aged under 6 years Whether took break from work when youngest child was born, and if so details of that break (duration and type of leave taken).

20.1.5 Data collected in the survey are compiled according to concepts and definitions outlined in Chapter 4 (employment characteristics and hours worked), Chapter 11 (weekly earnings), and Chapter 15 (socio-demographic information, industry and sector).

SCOPE

20.1.6 The scope of this survey is restricted to persons aged 15 years and over. Also excluded are persons aged 15-20 years who are still attending school. The standard scope restrictions for supplementary surveys outlined in the overview part of Chapter 20 also apply to this survey.

SAMPLE DESIGN

20.1.7 In addition to the sample restrictions for all supplementary surveys, a further three-eighths of the private dwelling sample of the Labour Force Survey are excluded from the sample for this survey.

DATA COMPARABILITY OVER TIME

20.1.8 In order to provide a high degree of consistency and comparability over time, changes to survey methods, survey concepts, data item definitions, frequency of collection, and analysis methods are made as infrequently as possible. Over the time the survey has been conducted there have been some changes to the scope and sample size. These changes mean that the standard errors for the survey differ over time. The effect on estimates of the change in scope is considered to have been small. Changes affecting the Labour Force Survey may also affect this survey. Such changes are outlined in Chapter 19 and are not repeated here.

1993 Initial survey conducted (February) - data published in **Career Experience, Australia** (Cat. no. 6254.0).

1996 Survey conducted (November).
Sample reduced to four-eighths of the Labour Force Survey sample.
Data items no longer available from this survey:

- size of location (all employees);
- whether work performance formally appraised by current employer in the last 12 months;
- whether intend to stay with current employer for the next 12 months;
- whether used different computers, computer-based equipment or computer packages with current employer in the last 12 months;
- whether used other machinery, tools or equipment with current employer in the last 12 months;
- whether on paid or unpaid leave during the most recent break from work;
- main field of study; and
- place of usual residence 12 months ago.

Data items replaced by the data item 'Whether changed hours usually worked with current employer in the last 12 months':

- whether changed from full-time to part-time work with current employer in the last 12 months;
- whether changed from part-time to full-time work with current employer in the

- last 12 months; and
- whether had other change in hours usually worked with current employer in the last 12 months.

1998

Survey conducted (November).

Data items no longer available from this survey for persons aged 70 and over:

- educational attainment; and
- usual weekly earnings in current position.

Additional data items collected for this survey:

- size of location (all employees);
- whether work performance formally appraised by current employer in the last 12 months;
- expected future duration of main job;
- reason expected duration of main job is less than 12 months;
- type of leave taken for most recent break from work;
- main field of study; and
- place of usual residence 12 months ago.

FURTHER INFORMATION

20.1.9 For further details contact the Assistant Director, Monthly and Multi-purpose Population Surveys Section, on Canberra (02) 6252 6660.

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